

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT  
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3  
Columbia River Compact  
September 10, 2001**

**PURPOSE:** Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider treaty Indian fishing options.

**TAC:** The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this fact sheet.

## Management Guidelines

### *Endangered Species Act*

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
<b>Species - ESU</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<b><u>Federally Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Chinook</u></b>		
<i>Snake River Fall</i>	Threatened	May 22, 1992
<i>Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Chum</u></b>		
<i>Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Steelhead</u></b>		
<i>Snake River</i>	Threatened	October 17, 1997
<i>Upper Columbia River</i>	Endangered	October 17, 1997
<i>Middle Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<i>Lower Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<b><u>Cutthroat Trout</u></b>		
<i>Southwest Washington</i>	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<b><u>Oregon State Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Coho</u></b>		
<i>Lower Columbia</i>	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- Coho salmon in the lower Columbia ESU are currently under review for listing under the Federal ESA.
- Lower Columbia River chum impacts in non-Indian fisheries will be managed not to exceed 5% and expected to be about 2%.
- Combined ocean and freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 15% as per the 2001 incidental take permit issued by the OFWC.
- A Biological Opinion concerning fall fisheries in the Columbia River was signed on August 10, 2001.

### **2001 Management Agreement**

- The states and tribes reached an agreement for management of 2001 fall fisheries. The 2001 Management Agreement allocates the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.

- Based on results of the North of Falcon negotiation process the non-Indian impact rate of 8.25% is allocated 4.90% for sport fisheries and 3.35% for commercial fisheries. Fall chinook catch expectations associated with these impact levels are 19,300 sport catch and 17,200 commercial catch.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% impact rate on Group B wild index steelhead.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries for 2001 will be managed according to the Fall Season Management Agreement to not exceed a 23.04% impact rate on URB fall chinook and 15% on wild Group B Index steelhead.

## **Water Conditions**

### ***Flow Updates***

- Flows have been unusually low this summer with flow measured at Bonneville Dam exceeding 100 kcfs only twice during the time period of July 5-August 6.
- During August flows increased but remained low with flows measured at Bonneville Dam ranging between 86 kcfs and 126 kcfs during August 7-31.
- During the first six days of September flows ranged between 80 kcfs and 95 kcfs and averaged 89 kcfs.

### ***Temperature Updates***

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, typically peak during the first half of August and subsequently decline slowly during the last half of August and early September.
- Water temperatures were below recent year averages during the month of August with temperature measured at Bonneville Dam not exceeding 70°F for the month.
- Water temperatures at Bonneville Dam remained stable at 69°F during the first five days of September.

## **Stock Status**

### ***Summer Steelhead***

- To date 44% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have passed The Dalles Dam, which is 110% of the recent 10-year average of 40%.

<b>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</b>					
		Cumulative Total Through September 9			
		September 9	2001	2000	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Skamania Index	-----	28,725	16,600	7,200
	Group A Index	6,278	467,169	193,100	151,300
	Group B Index	1,047	20,019	20,100	7,800
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,325</b>	<b>515,913</b>	<b>209,700</b>	<b>166,300</b>
The Dalles		15,571	269,200	129,500	81,600
John Day		7,849	152,500	99,300	78,700
McNary		3,762	128,700	54,900	41,500
Ice Harbor		1,127	58,300	33,400	24,100
Lower Granite		1,316	28,100	19,100	13,200
Priest Rapids		300	17,800	7,600	4,900

- The record large return of 28,700 Skamania index steelhead (20,700 hatchery and 8,000 wild) more than doubled the preseason forecast of 12,000 (9,000 hatchery and 3,000 wild).
- Group A index steelhead returns typically peak in August with 83% of the hatchery fish and 91% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 9.
- Group B index steelhead typically peak in September with 38% of the hatchery fish and 56% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 9.
- Returns of wild fish have also been strong to date with wild fish comprising 28% of the Group A index return and 35% of the Group B index return.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,500	27	143,200	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	19	38,400	81	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,800	78	57,500
1993	28,700	21	108,000	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	19	22,300	81	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,900	14	11,300	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,700	85	174,400	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,300	85	208,200	3,900	11	32,800	89	36,700
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	9	36,900	91	40,300
1999	56,600	32	119,900	68	176,500	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000	63,600	29	153,100	71	216,700	8,400	21	32,500	79	40,900
<b>2001 Proj.</b>	<b>132,700</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>374,200</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>506,900</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27,100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>36,000</b>

- Preseason forecasts were for 201,300 Group A index steelhead, including 49,000 wild fish and 152,300 hatchery fish, and 36,100 Group B index steelhead, including 27,100 hatchery fish and 9,000 wild fish.
- A return of 571,600 summer steelhead to the Columbia River would represent the largest return on record (since 1938) and would double the preseason prediction of 254,000.

## Fall Chinook

- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 15 to determine tule/bright stock proportions.

<b>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</b>					
		September 9 Daily	Cumulative through September 9		
			2001	2000	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Bright	16,561	150,392	17,200	17,200
	Tules	9,815	86,855	128,900	105,800
	Total Counts	26,376	237,247	146,100	123,000
The Dalles		7,647	79,100	85,100	56,500
John Day		5,451	44,400	64,000	36,800
McNary		2,529	25,500	37,900	24,600
Priest Rapids		300	7,500	20,900	9,100
Ice Harbor		241	2,800	2,900	1,200
Lower Granite		170	1,100	1,200	300

- Typically 63% of the bright adult return and 66% of the tule adult run passes Bonneville Dam through September 9.
- Based on counts through September 9, 2001, TAC updated river mouth run sizes to 234,400 brights and 109,000 tules. Lower River run sizes were not updated from preseason forecasts.
- Returns of jack fall chinook have been strong to date with 26,400 brights and 19,400 tules (including adult-size jacks) counted at Bonneville Dam through September 9. Typically 74% of tule jacks and 29% of bright jacks pass Bonneville Dam through September 9.

<b>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</b>				
Stock	1995-1999 Average	2000 Return	2001 Preseason Forecast	9/10/01 Update
URB	144,100	155,900	132,700	190,000
SRW	1,800	1,977	7,600	7,600
MCB	47,800	35,200	45,300	44,400
BPH	32,900	20,100	61,900	109,000
LRH	52,700	27,000	30,500	30,500
LRW	10,700	10,200	18,500	18,500
LRB	NA	1,500	2,400	2,400
SAB	4,200	3,400	3,400	3,400
Total	289,000	253,300	292,300	405,800

- A total of 4,379 males, 3,330 females, and 3,351 jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 9. The escapement goal is 7,000 adults, including 4,000 females.
- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery have exceeded the escapement goal of 3,000 adults. Returns to Big Creek Hatchery include 5,600 males, 2,900 females, and 2,000 jacks through September 7.

## **Sport Fishery Updates**

### ***Buoy 10 Fishery***

- The Buoy 10 fishery (from the mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened August 1 for chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. Daily salmon/steelhead bag limit was two fish, of which only one could be a chinook, through August 15 and three fish, of which only one may be a chinook, beginning August 16.
- The retention of chinook was disallowed beginning August 30 when the 8,800 adult chinook catch guideline was projected to be reached. In conjunction with the chinook retention restriction the salmon/steelhead daily catch limit was increased to four fish, of which only two could be steelhead. All steelhead and coho kept must be adipose fin-clipped.
- An estimated 95,600 angler trips through September 2 resulted in an estimated 12,000 chinook (10,200 adults) and 101,000 coho being retained.
- Coho fishing has been excellent with coho catch rates ranging between 1.3-2.3 coho per rod during the last week.

### ***Lower Columbia River Fishery***

- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and coho on August 1. Nonadipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from John Day Dam. Daily adult salmon catch limit is two fish per day.
- An estimated 1,500 adult chinook were landed during the month of August from 42,000 angler trips.
- Effort has been high during September with over 1,100 boats counted on Saturday September 1, over 700 boats counted on Wednesday September 5, and 700 boats on Saturday September 8.
- Catch rates have been good with a river-wide average of 1 adult chinook kept per every 2-3 boats.
- The estimated adult chinook catch for September 1-9 is 3,600 (5,100 season total) from 30,000 angler trips (72,000 season total).
- An estimated 4,100 marked steelhead were retained and 1,800 unmarked steelhead were released during the month of August.

### ***Fisheries Above Bonneville Dam***

- During the last half of August the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River had catch rates of 0.11 chinook, 0.11 marked steelhead kept, and 0.08 unmarked steelhead released per angler.
- The Hanford Reach sport fishery opened on August 16 with small catches observed to date.

## Commercial Fishery Updates

### Lower River Fisheries

- Preseason expectations were for landings of 3,700 adult fall chinook and 1,500-3,000 white sturgeon in early August fisheries and 7,700 adult fall chinook and 200-400 white sturgeon in August 2S fisheries.
- URB fall chinook adults were expected to total 320 in early August fisheries and 2,700 in August 2S fisheries. To date an estimated 2,800 URB adult fall chinook have been landed which is similar to the preseason expectation of 3,020.

<b>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Update</b>							
Stock	Aug 4-9	Aug 2S	Select Areas				
			Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
URB	469	2,359					
BPH	652	1,078					
MCB	58	740					
LRH	500	179					
LRW	139	0					
LRB	0	0					
SAB	231	0					
Others	24	24					
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>2,074</i>	<i>4,380</i>	<i>1,284</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Coho	292	375	142	0	0	0	0
W. Sturgeon	4,741	1,025	24	0	0	0	0
G. Sturgeon	320	3	0	0	0	0	0

- To date an estimated 9,400 white sturgeon have been landed in lower river commercial fisheries which slightly exceeds the 9,100 fish catch limit. Sturgeon retention will be disallowed in all commercial fisheries, including Select Areas, throughout the remainder of the year.
- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week through the end of October and landings are expected to total 1,000-2,000 chinook and 175,000 coho. Based on LV clips an estimated 95% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay to date have been SAB's.
- Other Select Area fisheries are currently open four nights per week through the end of October with a total coho catch expectation of 92,000, comprised of 21,000 in Tongue Point, 18,000 in Blind Slough, 36,000 in Deep River, and 17,000 in Steamboat Slough.
- Commercial fishing effort in Select Area fisheries is low due to ongoing price negotiations.
- At the previous hearing the Compact adopted a small scale coho tangle net test fishery consisting of six fishing days in the mainstem Columbia River below Longview Bridge during the first two weeks of September. Upriver bright impacts are projected to be 0.07%.
- Additional fishing time for the coho tangle net test fishery may be adopted at future Compact hearings.

## Treaty Indian Fishery

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Update							
Dates	Total Chinook	URB	BPH	MCB	Total Steelhead	Wild	
						A Index	B Index
Aug. C&S	300	140	120	40	6,400	740	320
Aug. 28- Sep. 1	Ticket	17,080			3,061		
	Non-Ticket	9,608			2,432		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,688</b>	<b>11,285</b>	<b>13,907</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>5,493</b>	<b>933</b>
Sep. 4-8	Ticket	30,120			4,921		
	Non-Ticket	7,987			511		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38,107</b>	<b>11,462</b>	<b>23,830</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>5,432</b>	<b>755</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>65,095</b>	<b>22,887</b>	<b>37,857</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>17,326</b>	<b>2,428</b>	<b>885</b>

- During the first two fishing period landings included 2,030 coho, 110 white sturgeon, and 15 walleye.

2001 Zone 6 Set Net Counts						
Date	Mesh Restrictions	Bonn	The Dalles	John Day	Total	Comments
Aug. 31	None	148	105	145	398	
Sep. 5	None	100	84	151	334	97-99 Sep 3 counts range 366-498

## Fishery Proposals

### Treaty Indian Fishery Proposal

- The tribes will propose a season at the hearing.

## Impacts Summary

Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2001			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S	300	140	0.07
Commercial through Sep 8	64,795	22,747	11.97
Proposed Commercial	61,600	18,600	9.8
Late Fall C&S	260	200	0.11
Treaty Indian Total	126,955	41,687	21.9
Non-Indian Fisheries			
August Sturgeon/Salmon Commercial	2,074	469	0.25
August 2S Commercial	4,380	2,359	1.24
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	2,650	100	0.05
Buoy 10 Sport	10,723	1,977	1.04
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	9,100	5,220	2.75
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	1,130	840	0.44
Coho Tangle Test Fishery	300	96	0.05
Remaining Commercial Fisheries	10,680	4,620	2.43
Non-Indian Total	44,700	15,700	8.25
Grand Total	171,655	57,387	30.20

- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead by treaty Indian fisheries are estimated to total 9.7% through September 8 and are projected to total 14.88% for the season, including the proposed fishing period.
- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead are projected to total 1.6% for all non-Indian fisheries.
- Ocean and freshwater fishery impacts to Oregon state listed wild coho destined for Lower Columbia River tributaries are projected to total 11.4% with a 14.6% impact rate on early stock and a 8.9% impact rate on late stock.

### **Future Compact Hearing**

- The Joint Staff recommends the next Compact hearing be held at 10 a.m. Friday, September 14, 2001, at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, headquarters commission room located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
September 10, 2001